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REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their representative, Terry Callaghan, during a personal interview conducted on November 10, 2004. The substance of the interview is discussed further below.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 116, 123, 125, 127-134, 137, 139, 186, 188, 189, 202, 205-209, 211, 212, 214-218, 229, 307, 312, and 313 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,878,353 issued to ul Azam et al.; rejected claims 116, 123, 125, 127-134, 137, 139, 186, 188, 189, 202, 205-209, 211, 212, 214-218, 229, 307, 312, and 313 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,940,503 issued to Palett et al.; and rejected claims 117-122, 124, 126, 135, 136, 138, 140, 141, 144, 149-185, 190-201, 203, 204, 210, 213, 219-228, 230-306, 308-311, and 314 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam et al. or Palett et al. Applicants respectfully transverse these rejections for the reasons below.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 116, 307, and 312 as discussed during the interview. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 116, 307, and 312 are intended to more clearly define the subject matter of those claims without narrowing the scope of these claims. Claims 116-141, 144, 149-186, and 188-314 remain pending.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 116, 123, 125, 127-134, 137, 139, 186, 188, 189, 202, 205-209, 211, 212, 214-218, 229, 307, 312, and 313 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by ul Azam et al. or Palett et al. With respect to independent claims 116 and 307, the Examiner pointed out that it was not clear what was

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meant by the phrase “associated with the vehicle.” With respect to independent claim 312, it was noted that this claim recited that the control circuit determines whether a portable telephone is within the range of said audio and data transceiver. The Examiner agreed that amendments to claims 116 and 307 to recite such a similar feature would more clearly define what Applicants intended by “associated with the vehicle.”

With respect to independent claim 116, the Examiner further asked that this claim be amended to recite that the at least one portable device includes an audio and data transceiver. Applicants submit that this was already implicitly stated within claim 116 insofar as the recited audio and data transceiver of the vehicle rearview assembly is capable of receiving both audio and data signals from at least one portable device. In any rate, Applicants have amended claim 116 as requested by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted, however, that such an amendment is not narrow the scope of claim 116 from its original scope.

During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the rejections over ul Azam et al. and Palett et al. were no longer applicable to claims 116, 307 and 312.

Also during the interview, Applicants’ representative showed to the Examiner a prior art rearview mirror with a push button interface for use with GM’s OnStar system.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 116, 307 and 312, as well as claims 123, 125, 127-134, 137, 139, 186, 188, 189, 202, 205-209, 211, 212, 214-218, 229 and 313 which depend therefrom, are allowable over ul Azam et al. and Palett et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 116, 123, 125, 127-134, 137, 139, 186, 188, 189, 202, 205-209, 211, 212, 214-218, 229, 307, 312, and 313 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Palett et al.

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 117-122, 124, 126, 135, 136, 138, 140, 141, 144, 149-185, 190-201, 203, 204, 210, 213, 219-228, 230-306, 308-311, and 314 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam et al. or Palett et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above claims are not obvious over ul Azam et al. or Palett et al. in view of the fact that all of these claims depend from independent claims 116, 307 and 312, which are allowable over ul Azam et al. or Palett et al. as discussed above.

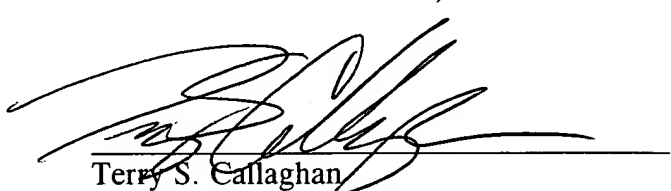
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present invention as defined in the pending claims is allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner reconsideration and timely allowance of the claims is requested. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
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Date



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